

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 16-21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, at step ST24, the process reads pixel data of a reference block from the reference frame memory 202 and, at step ST25, reads from the search frame memory 203 pixel data of such a candidate block in a search range as to correspond to that reference block and converts this straight binary format data into two's complement format data at the convert-to-two's-complement portion 204a at step ST26.

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 1-9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, at step ST29, the process computes a sum of the absolute difference values between a certain reference block and predetermined candidate blocks at the total-sum-computing portion 205 and stores it in the holding portion 206 at step ST30. At step ST31, the process decides whether generation of the sum of absolute difference values between the certain reference block and every candidate block has ended. If such is not the case, the process returns to step ST25, to shift to processing of generating a sum of absolute difference values between the certain reference block and the next candidate block. Otherwise, the process goes to step ST32.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 1-12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It is to be noted that by providing such a configuration that some of the plurality of memory cells connected to one bit line may have different capacitance of their capacitors, the number of memory cells required to store one items of data can be reduced. For example, if

one item of data has N number of bits (N is a ~~control~~ positive integer), N number of word lines are related to this one item of data and the capacitors of N number of memory cells connected to these N number of word lines respectively are each given as capacitance in accordance with weight of each bit of the data having these N number of bits. Accordingly, only N number of memory cells is required to store data having N number of bits. In ~~contrast~~ contrast, if the memory cells have the same capacitance of their capacitors,  $(2^N - 1)$  number of memory cells is required to store N-bit data.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 45, line 20, through page 46, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The image signal Di input to the input terminal 121 is accumulated in the reference frame memory portion 122a that constitutes the memory portion 122, as an image signal of a reference frame. Then, an image signal of the immediately preceding frame stored in the reference frame memory portion ~~122b~~ 122a is read and accumulated in the search frame memory portion 122b, as an image signal of a search frame. In this case, eight-bit straight binary format pixel data read from the reference frame memory portion 122a is converted into two's complement format pixel data by the convert-to-two's-complement portion 123 provided outside the memory portion 122 and written into the search frame memory portion 122b as nine-bit pixel data.

Please replace the paragraph at page 50, lines 8-12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Accordingly, a sum of absolute difference values is generated by the ~~absolute-difference-value-sum-holding~~ absolute-difference-value-holding portion 124, for each of the reference blocks of a reference frame, between that reference block and each of the sw X sh number of candidate blocks in a search range of a search frame corresponding to this reference block.